trainees to take up teaching profession was thought of at that time when the emoluments were far less. But, to-day, when we have increased their emoluments, they should be allowed to take their chance along with other professions. We do not give stipends in respect of other professions. In view of all these, it will have to be considered whether this inducement of giving stipends to teacher-trainees alone is necessary.

Mineral wealth in the Chalk Hills, Salem district.

* 2419 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether minerals like gold, silver and copper are available in Chalk Hills of the Salem district; and

(*b*) the steps taken by the Government to exploit the above minerals?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) The area was surveyed during 1946–47 by the Geological Survey Department and it was found that there was no occurrence of gold, silver and copper in workable quantities in that area.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Gazetted posts in the Home Department.

* 2420 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan): Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of Gazetted posts of Deputy Secretary, Joint Secretary and Assistant Secretaries in the Home Department on this date and the number of Malayalees and non-Malayalees in these posts?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: On 29th April 1955, there were on post of Joint Secretary, one post of Deputy Secretary and four posts of Assistant Secretaries in the Home Department. The holders of the posts of Joint Secretary, Deputy Secretary and one of the four posts of Assistant Secretaries were Malayalees. The other Assistant Secretaries were non-Malayalees.

Industries governed by the Minimum Wages Act.

9-30 a.m. * 2421 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the number of industries in the State to which the Payment of Wages Act is applicable?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, applied in the first instance to the payment of wages to persons employed in any factory and to persons employed (otherwise than in a factory) in any railway by a railway administration or, either directly or through a subcontractor, by a person fulfilling a contract with a railway administration.